

A SUNDAY RAMBLE;

O R,

Modern Sabbath-Day Journey;

In and about the CITIES of

LONDON and WESTMINSTER.

Describing, in an agreeable Manner, the various interesting SCENES
which are Weekly to be met with at the

MINERAL WELLS,
COFFEE-HOUSES,
PLACES OF PUB-
LICK WORSHIP,
TAVERNS,

ORDINARIES,
PUBLICK GARDENS,
PARKS,
SUNDAY ROUTS,
BAGNIOS, &c.

OF THIS METROPOLIS AND ITS ENVIRONS.

Exhibiting a true Account of the Manner in which
that Day is generally employed by all Ranks and
Degrees of People, from the common Beggar to
the dignified Peer.

The Whole illustrated with a great Variety of Ori-
ginal CHARACTERS, ANECDOTES, and MEMOIRS,
of Persons in real Life; with pleasing Remarks
thereupon. Intended to shew, in their proper
Light, the Follies of the present Age; without
the Severity of a CYNICK, or the Indulgence
of a SENSUALIST.

Persons of ev'ry Rank, and ev'ry Age,
Who know the Scenes that occupy each Page,
Will, when they read my Book, with Pleasure say —
“ He's well describ'd our weekly Holiday.”

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THE INTRODUCTION.

PPROMPTED by curiosity to visit the metropolis, after upwards of thirty years entirely devoted to the country, I set out for London pretty early in the Summer, intending to stay in town the greatest part of the Winter; and, as I ever had a strong propensity for writing, was determined to notice whatever I thought remarkable, and form it into a book at my return into the country, for the amusement of such of my neighbours as had never been in town.

Having communicated this design to the person I resided with, (who had formerly been a schoolfellow, and was now a very eminent druggist, in the heart of the city)

he

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he was pleased to say, that he doubted not but he could procure me sufficient speculation, not only for the amusement of my friends; but such as would be very acceptable, as well as interesting, to the publick at large. ‘But first,’ said he, ‘I will have your approbation; by previously leading you into the scenes I could wish you to describe. If you think them worthy attention, you may improve the hint; if not, you may place those occurrences among the rest of your observations, for the sole purpose you at first intended. But I should for my own part imagine, that the peculiar manner in which the Sabbath-day is generally employed in this metropolis, with descriptions of the various places resorted to on that day, and accounts of the different characters I shall without doubt be able to make you acquainted with, might be placed in such a light, as to render it a very entertaining performance.’

There needed no further recommendation to induce me to begin this attempt, which I instantly resolved to put it in execution the next Sunday: and the following sheets contain a faithful account of the occurrences which

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which happened during our perambulation, together, with the judicious remarks of my sensible friend; who, far from censuring the innocent amusement of walking in the fields and publick gardens about town, after divine service, and partaking of moderate refreshment at those places; thinks it highly necessary that those whose business will not conveniently permit them to leave the metropolis on any other day, should then endeavour to receive a little wholesome air, were it only for the preservation of their health.

How far I may have succeeded, in properly digesting the various circumstances in the order they happened, and accurately describing the several places we visited, must be determined by the impartial publick; and if the reader receives as much pleasure from the relation, as the author did in collecting it, he will neither think his time nor his money mispent.

It may probably be expected, that I should say something about the criticks; but that, I imagine, will be needless, as the Monthly and Critical Reviewers may perhaps think this performance too insignificant

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nificant for their notice, and I know of few other publick criticks, whose praise or censure can add to or diminish the reputation of a writer. With respect to my readers -- those who are *purchasers* will be extremely welcome to find what faults they please, and make such alterations in their own book as they may think proper; but I humbly hope no *others* will presume to depreciate a work that cannot *materially* hurt *any one*; and *them, not at all.*

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CHAP. I.

Modern Sabbath-Day Journies — Bacchanalian Squabble — Morning Walk — Tottenham Court Chapel — Moral Reflections — Characters.

AGREEABLE to the appointment which my reader has seen in the Introduction, if he was unfashionable enough to peruse it, we sat out on our intended excursion about four o'clock on a fine summer's morning. The shades of night had just begun to retire; and, by
B their

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their retreat, discovered here and there a staggering bacchanalian, who having sacrificed too freely to his favourite deity, was, after a night spent in riot and debauchery, repairing to his miserable kennel.

We had not proceeded far, before we discovered several young persons, very gaily dressed, waiting at the gate of an inn-yard for phætons, chaises, and other carriages, which appeared to be getting ready with all possible expedition. I could not help expressing my surprise at seeing such a number of people at so early an hour, seemingly on the same errand; (for having passed by those we had first observed, I perceived that the next gate-way was occupied in the same manner;) when my friend informed me, that they were giddy young people who were going on a Sunday excursion to Windsor, Hampton-Court, &c. where they would probably spend much more than the labours of the foregoing week could defray. ‘ Thus,’ continued he, ‘ they early contract a desire for gaiety and ‘ extravagance, which generally terminates ‘ in their destruction. The greater part of ‘ these you have seen, are journeymen, and ‘ even apprentices, in genteel businesses; ‘ who, having contracted intimacies with ‘ milliners

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‘ milliners and mantua-makers, are, from
‘ the peculiar taste of that kind of gentry,
‘ obliged to launch into every species of
‘ polite extravagance, in order to secure
‘ their very desirable affections. Hence we
‘ frequently see, that when at length they
‘ become possessed of the amiable objects,
‘ they begin life with such an *eclât*, that
‘ their thoughtless inattention to business
‘ soon makes its appearance in the Gazette,
‘ and they sink, unpitied, into obscurity.’

Passing on, in our way towards the Foundling Hospital, we perceived a groupe of wretches, male and female, round a kind of cauldron filled with an infusion of saffrafras, well known by the name of saloop, which they seemed to drink with the greatest avidity; uttering at intervals such horrid oaths and execrations, blended with obscenity, as sufficiently intitled them to the appellation I have bestowed. As we drew nearer, I found there were five or six persons; of which number, two only appeared to be men, and the rest seemed to be the most abandoned prostitutes. One of the men (as we afterwards found) having drank two or three basons of the liquor, refused paying for them; on which, after some altercation, the saloop-man seized him by the

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collar, threw him upon the pavement, and pommeled him pretty severely : the other, seeing his companion thus used, fell about the man with all the fury his intoxicated condition would permit ; and one of the girls, who it seems was a dulcinea of the saloop-man, with equal good-will, and more ability, about him. Thus a general encounter commenced ; the saloop-man laid about the aggressor, his companion about the saloop-man, and the girl about him : during which time, the other girls appeared very busy in separating the combatants ; when, I suppose, they took the opportunity of rifling their pockets : for when we interfered, and had so far reconciled them that they agreed to satisfy the man, they found themselves without the power of accomplishing it. The girls had however retreated, as soon as they perceived us ; and, as the condition of the men prevented their knowing them again should they even see them, were most probably out of the reach of justice.

Leaving these people to lament their folly and debauchery, which would no doubt enjoin them to fasting and penance for a great part of the week, we proceeded on our way ; not without many reflections on their imprudent conduct. By

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By the time we reached the fields, the sun had just began to make his appearance; and the chearful birds were saluting him with a concert of music, which would not have disgraced the most harmonious assembly.

As we passed along, ruminating on the various beautiful scenes which continually attracted our notice at that early hour of prime, we could not but remark the folly of those sons of sloth who, rather than forego the poorest of all animal gratifications, deprive themselves of one of the finest sights which the universe can boast of: for such, most certainly, is the rising sun on a clear and beautiful morning.

‘And not the sight alone,’ said my ingenious friend, ‘but the health and chearfulness which attend it. For doubtless,’ continued he, ‘were people in general to rise early, and take a moderate walk before they began their daily exercises or labour; the bills of mortality would greatly decrease, as well as the pride and opulence of we dealers in medicine; who owe more of our importance to one single branch of intemperance, than all the natural causes put together.’

My friend was going to proceed; when

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he was suddenly interrupted by the approach of three or four smart females, and an equal number of the male creation. These we presently found were gentlemen's servants in the neighbourhood; who having embezzled liquors from their respective masters, were repairing to a well-known house near Kentish Town, to regale themselves with syllabub, rum and milk, &c. And as they observed we were going on in the same road, and were then at no great distance from the intended place, they very civilly invited us to partake with them. This we readily complied with; merely from a supposition, that it might perhaps be productive of an adventure. In this, however, we were greatly mistaken: for no sooner were the liquors exhausted, than some of the girls began to be very uneasy lest they should not get back before the house-keeper was stirring; who they all declared was a cross old toad, and grudged young people those pleasures which her age and peevish disposition would not suffer her to share.

After a profusion of unmeaning compliments on both sides, we took leave of this company; better pleased by far with the liquor, than the providers; whose

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loud and almost continual laughter, at the supposed pleasantries of each other, was not near so agreeable to us, as it appeared to be to themselves.

We then rambled about the fields for some time, without meeting with any thing worthy of notice, till at length we found ourselves near the Chapel in Tottenham-Court Road, built for the late reverend Mr. Whitefield, (that indefatigable labourer in the vine-yard of his MASTER) at the expence of the Countess of Huntingdon, remarkable for her unfeigned piety. Here I was agreeably surpris'd to hear a great number of melodious voices, singing with the utmost harmony, the praises of ALMIGHTY GOD. This was a pleasure I little expected to receive at such an early hour ; for it was then scarce six o'clock. But my friend, perceiving my surprise, inform'd me that these people always meet so early on a Sunday morning, owing to the great numbers of the congregation that constantly attend the LORD'S Supper on that day, who would not be able to receive it, if they did not assemble thus soon. Telling me, at the same time, that he had a Sacrament-ticket in his pocket ; which, if I chose, would procure me admittance, while he amused

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amused himself with looking out for adventures.

Glad of the opportunity, I immediately accepted it, and was instantly introduced among the congregation; which consisted of some hundreds of persons of both sexes, all dressed with amazing neatness, and conducting themselves with the greatest decency and devotion: whilst the regularity with which the pious clergy administered the Sacrament; the excellent admonitions and exhortations which they gave; and the unfeigned sincerity with which they appeared to be received; all conspired to render it the most pleasing sight I had ever beheld.

Struck with admiration, I stood with my eyes fixed on the ground, in deep contemplation on the great and material difference between these people and those of the Established Church in general, (not much in favour of the latter;) when an elderly gentleman tapped me on the shoulder, and asked me, with the greatest affability, to accompany him to the LORD'S Table. Conscious of my own unworthiness, I begged to be excused; informing him that curiosity alone had brought me there, without the least preparation for so awful a ceremony:

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ceremony : that I was so well pleased, however, with the remarkable devotion of the people, that I should doubtless partake with them on some future day, when I might be much better prepared.

We then began a general conversation ; in the course of which he gave me to understand, that having acquired a small fortune by mere dint of industry, which enabled him to live decently, without the care and fatigue of business, he had taken a small house at Marybone, where the whole of his employ was confined to the cultivation of his garden. He likewise told me, that he was not what is strictly called a Methodist, having been brought up in the true principles of the Church of England ; but perceiving the inactivity of the clergy in general of the Established Church, was in fact (to use his own expression) *of no religion at all* : and only came now and then to this place, because he thought it differed very little from what Protestant churches *should be*, and was, in his opinion, much better than they *really are*. ‘Notwithstanding which,’ continued he, ‘I have my objections to these people ; as indeed I have to all sects whatever, whose tenets I am any way acquainted with. To speak freely, this is my opinion
‘ of

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‘ of them all — The *Papists*, who value
 ‘ themselves on being the most ancient kind
 ‘ of Christians, are no doubt apostates from
 ‘ the true religion; and, as the Apostle
 ‘ Paul truly prophesied, have *departed from*
 ‘ *the faith: speaking lies in hypocrisy, having*
 ‘ *their conscience seared with a hot iron; for-*
 ‘ *bidding to marry, and commanding to abstain*
 ‘ *from meats.* These are their known and
 ‘ professed tenets: such a religion must,
 ‘ therefore, be absurdity itself. — The *Pro-*
 ‘ *testants* are next; and these, it must be
 ‘ confessed, are a much more rational set of
 ‘ people than the former, having wiped
 ‘ away many of the superstitious fopperies
 ‘ of the Romish Church. Pity it is, that
 ‘ the temper of the times would not per-
 ‘ mit them to make a *thorough Reformation*,
 ‘ and establish, at once, the ancient simpli-
 ‘ city of the Christian Religion! — Next
 ‘ are the *Dissenters*, or *Presbyters*, (for their
 ‘ difference is very trifling;) who, deter-
 ‘ mined to avoid every branch of Romish
 ‘ superstition, protest against all manner of
 ‘ forms; and thereby throw away the good
 ‘ with the evil. Were they not quite so
 ‘ scrupulous, (as they are less careless of
 ‘ Religion than the generality of Protestants)
 ‘ I should be ready to pronounce them the
 ‘ true

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‘ true Church of CHRIST, according to
‘ the best of my judgment. — Now for
‘ the people before us, sometimes called
‘ *Whitefieldites*, but generally *Methodists*; to
‘ whom my great and almost only objection
‘ is, their seeming neglect of GOD THE
‘ FATHER; by directing their prayers
‘ *immediately to GOD THE SON*, instead of
‘ addressing them *to HIS FATHER through*
‘ *HIM*; and, like the Protestants, bowing
‘ at HIS name, without noticing that of HIS
‘ FATHER. — The *Anabaptists* differ
‘ very little from the Methodists, in any
‘ thing but the baptizmal ceremony; which
‘ they do not administer to *infants*, and after
‘ a particular form to persons of riper years;
‘ and as this is contrary to the express words
‘ of CHRIST, who says, *Suffer little children*
‘ *to come unto Me, and forbid them not*; you
‘ cannot wonder at my disapprobation of
‘ their distinction. — I shall now only
‘ mention the *Quakers*; who being an ap-
‘ parently harmless set of people, should
‘ not meet with my censure, (though their
‘ doctrine appears to be ridiculous, as well
‘ as unscriptural) did they not seem to trifle
‘ too much with the inspiration of the HOLY
‘ GHOST. In short, the Third person of
‘ the Trinity is this people’s favourite
‘ branch;

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‘ branch ; as the Second is that of the
‘ Methodists, and the First of the Deists.
‘ Neither of which extremes is, in my opi-
‘ nion, the right way.’

Here the old gentleman ceased : and I was not a little pleased to find a person so extremely judicious, whose sentiments of religion perfectly agreed with my own.

After this, I informed him of my Rambling Scheme ; and asked him to give me his assistance, by letting me know the particulars of any remarkable characters present, with which he might be acquainted.

Accordingly, he immediately directed my attention to an aged female that sat near the communion-table, who I had before observed constantly lifting up her hands and eyes with the greatest seeming devotion. ‘ That woman,’ said he, ‘ is a finished hypocrite. I have known her near twenty years ; in the course of which, she has had no less than three husbands : and having lately lost her last, puts on this remarkable appearance of zealous piety, to conceal the libidinous emotions of her heart ; which beats strongly for a raw country lad, who she has promised to make her fourth, as soon as a *decent* time of widowhood is expired, and she is convinced

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‘vinced he is sufficiently *converted* to justify
‘her choice on that account with her more
‘conscientious acquaintance. You will
‘wonder, perhaps, what the young fellow
‘can see agreeable in a person of her age
‘and appearance : and whether it is from
‘the extreme simplicity of the one, or the
‘riches of the other, I am indeed at a loss
‘to determine. This, however, is certain ;
‘that her hypocritical conduct has brought
‘business to her shop, and enabled her to
‘rank with the most eminent retail dealers ;
‘which may perhaps induce the young
‘fellow to marry her, for the sake of bet-
‘tering his fortune ; who, most probably,
‘when he has got her into the nuptial snare,
‘will soon be tired of his deceitful spouse,
‘and launch into all the excesses and diffi-
‘pations of the town, with which she now
‘thinks him quite unacquainted ; leaving
‘her to lament the folly of giving way to
‘her desires, and imagining her antiquated
‘charms sufficient to confine the boisterous
‘passions of a vigorous inexperienced
‘youth.’

When he had finished this account, I
could not help remarking on the bad
effects of religious hypocrisy ; since it
not only proves the bane of its possessors,
C but

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but greatly hurts the cause of that religion where it is found to be most prevalent. This has prejudiced many worthy persons against the Methodists, who would otherwise respect and esteem them: and the depravity of a few, has (like national reflection) been unjustly attributed to the whole. So that if a man now appears at all thoughtful about God and a future state, he is immediately called a *Methodist*, an *enthusiast*, and a *madman*; and these words are esteemed synonymous, implying that he is a *hypocrite*.

After this, the old gentleman continued his observations. ‘ Take notice,’ said he, ‘ of those three young girls that sit in the ‘ pew on the left-hand side of the widow; ‘ who being come without their respective ‘ parents, are, notwithstanding the solemnity of the place, actually exchanging ‘ glances with a like number of youths in ‘ the right-hand gallery. These are tradesmen’s daughters in the neighbourhood, ‘ with whom I am perfectly acquainted; ‘ and was I not determined to reprove them, ‘ and promise to inform their parents if they ‘ continue these indiscretions, would perhaps form such fatal connections by their ‘ imprudent behaviour, as might bring ‘ ever-

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‘ everlasting shame and disgrace on themselves, and destroy the happiness of their several relations.’

After remarking on the levity of these young people, I perceived a middle-aged woman, dressed in very genteel mourning, whose countenance bespoke her to be a very different sort of matron from that we had before observed, and begged to be informed if he knew who she was. ‘ Glad I am,’ replied he, ‘ to have an opportunity of making you acquainted with such a character. She is indeed no hypocrite: her conduct has ever been irreproachable. About ten months ago she lost a most exemplary husband; since which time, she has experienced a variety of misfortunes, as little expected as deserved; and though she bears them with the greatest possible fortitude, it is but too evident that they prey upon her constitution, and will soon finish their own existence, by putting an end to her days. The young gentleman in dark grey clothes, that sits on the opposite seat, is her son; who is an amiable young man, and by his prudent conduct gives her the only earthly pleasure she is capable of receiving.’

Here the old gentleman paused; and re-

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collecting my friend would be tired of waiting, I hastily took my leave; after promising to call at his house on the first convenient opportunity.

When I got out of the chapel, I found him very impatient for my return; for he had just seen a great crowd of people hurrying across the fields; and not being able to learn the occasion of such a concourse, waited for me, in order to follow after them. But this not promising to be on a similar subject with the greater part of the present chapter, I shall leave my reader to his reflections on what has been already said, by putting an end to the first part of my perambulation.

CHAP. II.

Bruising-Match, considered as a Species of Gaming — Artful Scheme of a Knowing-one defeated — Description of Bagnigge Wells — Anecdotes, &c. of the Frequenters.

STUDIOUS to render myself agreeable to the reader, [and willing to let him know I think him obliged to me for it] I kindly gave him room for reflection, by
finish-

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finishing the first chapter ; at a time when I had not sufficient leisure to inform my friend and conductor of the particulars therein contained, or indeed to consider them myself.

The hurry we were in to know the cause of such a tumult, made us increase our usual speed ; so that we arrived at the place almost as soon as the multitude began to halt, and could then perceive, that it was chiefly composed of the most depraved part of the human system. These, we presently learnt, were assembled together, in order to behold the dexterous manouvres of two noted bruisers ; who were then going to decide a supposed wager of twenty guineas, by their agility in boxing. A knowing one, however, who stood near us, whispered me gently that it was only a *sham* fight ; and, if I had a mind to bett any thing, would let me into the secret for a trifle ; adding, at the same time, that I might make it worth my while ; as he was very certain there were several *green-horns* present, who would be easily taken in.

Shocked at so base a proposal, I mildly reproved him for making such an overture. When I was instantly attacked with a volley of blasphemous oaths : charging me

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with being a religious hypocrite; and informing me, that I need have no scruples of conscience about *cheating* any body, as he would have taken care I should not have *won* much, let me have laid what I would. Certain of being greatly worsted, had I been disposed to make any reply, I let him go on, without answering a word. So that finding he could make nothing of me, he plunged into the crowd as soon as he had ended his speech, and I saw no more of him.

In the mean time, the two fellows began the encounter; handling their fists (if I may be allowed this bear-garden phrase) with as much care and deliberation, as a couple of fencing-masters would their foils: while the hands of their associates were no doubt much nimbler employed about the pockets of the unwary spectators. After a few flourishes, and two or three tumbles on the grass, one of them acknowledged himself vanquished, (without having received any visible hurt;) and the other was declared conqueror, by a loud shout from the mob.

Heartily disgusted with this scene, we quitted it with almost as much haste as had brought us there: and, as we went along,
my

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my friend informed me, that this kind of *diversion* was by no means uncommon on a Sunday morning; so that he should have instantly known the cause of their assembly, had they not met at a different part of the field from that generally appropriated to these occasions, and which is called, by way of distinction, The Green Stage.

He then observed, that what the fellow had said about it's being a feigned battle, was most certainly true. 'And this,' added he, 'was artfully communicated with a view of deceiving you more importantly: for if you had been one of those people who are fond of over-reaching others, and had for that purpose accepted his proposal; he would have taken care to mention the contrary person, (as indeed he afterwards intimated) and procure a companion to lay against you, in order to bite the biter. Thus we see how easily those who are fond of wagering may be sometimes taken in, by the plausible pretences of a designing knave; and, at the time they think themselves certain of duping another, be themselves the prey of a sharper, without the consolation of being innocently so.'

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The justness of my friend's remark extended itself, in my idea, to every species of gaming; and I could not help exclaiming against the folly as well as villainy of gambling: whether at a simple bruising-match, (that favourite entertainment of the vulgar;) or the more refined charms of the cockpit or hazard-table: heartily wishing the civil magistrates would properly interpose; and at least abolish so much of this destructive infatuation, as comes immediately under their province.

By this time, we had nearly reached Bagnigge Wells, and my friend advised that we should call in and drink the waters; which, he informed me, were of a salutary effect, and would most probably, if they were at a greater distance from the metropolis, be as much frequented as any of our more eminent spaws. 'And indeed,' continued he, 'it is at present a place of general resort; so that we shall by no means find it barren of amusement. I have myself seen some hundreds of a morning; whose various characters and appearance must certainly furnish sufficient entertainment for a contemplative mind. And though there are several minerals in the neighbourhood not to be despised,

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‘ spised, yet the superior accommodations of
‘ this place render it more frequented than
‘ any other, as I think it justly deserves.’
After such an account, I needed no invitation
to enter; and we were immediately admitted,
on paying only three-pence each.

As we did not go to this place in the
character of valetudinerians, we paid little
attention to the waters; which are by no
means disagreeable to the palate, and are
well described, as my friend acquainted me,
in a little pamphlet wrote by Dr. Bevis,
setting-forth their various virtues and effects,
which the company may peruse during their
stay. There are likewise several news-
papers for the amusement of the company;
and, in short, every accommodation that
can reasonably be expected or desired.

‘ A few years ago,’ said my faithful con-
ductor, ‘ this place had nothing to boast
‘ of; being only a little alehouse, seldom
‘ visited by persons of any credit: but since
‘ the present proprietor has had possession,
‘ the gardens have been continually enlarg-
‘ ing and improving, to the perfection in
‘ which you now see them. So that they
‘ have at present very little to envy, in my
‘ opinion, even the justly celebrated ones
‘ of Vauxhall; and are much superior to
‘ most

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* most of the numerous tea-gardens you
* will visit in the afternoon: The great
* room, too,' continued my friend, 'which
* is now converted into two, was some time
* since much admired for it's elegance;
* and greatly frequented, on account of a
* fine organ placed there for the entertain-
* ment of the company. The organ, how-
* ever, is not now suffered to be used;
* none being permitted at the public places
* in this county, since the opening of the
* Pantheon in the Spaw Fields; and the
* room is divided, (though the former ele-
* gance remains) because of the vast num-
* ber of people that used to walk there, to
* the great hinderance of the waiters, who
* were by that means prevented from giving
* proper attendance.'

When my friend had informed me of these particulars, I proceeded to take a view of the place; which I found to consist of several beautiful walks, ornamented with a great variety of curious shrubs and flowers, all in the utmost perfection. About the centre of the garden is a small round fish-pond, in the midst of which is a curious fountain, representing a cupid bestriding a swan which spouts three streams of water through it's beak to a great height. Round
this

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this place, and indeed almost over the whole garden, are genteel seats for the company; which, my friend said, we should undoubtedly find quite full in the afternoon, notwithstanding their prodigious number. At a little distance from the pond, is a small neat cottage, built in the rural stile; and not far from that, over a bridge leading across a piece of water that passes through part of the garden, is a pretty piece of grotto-work, large enough to contain near twenty people. Besides which, there is a house, and several seats placed by the water-side, for such of the company as chuse to smok, or drink cyder, ale, &c. which are not permitted in the other parts of the garden.

Having sufficiently admired this agreeable place, I did not wonder at my friend's encomiums, though they at first seemed to be rather exaggerated. We then began to survey the company, made up of about three hundred persons; among which were several genteel females, and one in particular of exquisite beauty, with whom my companion appeared to be acquainted. 'Who is that lady,' said I to him, 'that you just now complimented *en passant*?' 'She is,' replied he, 'the wife of an eminent tradesman'

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‘ man in the city ; and is but lately raised
 ‘ to that honour from being his menial
 ‘ servant.

‘ About two years ago, he lost his wife,
 ‘ to whom he had been married many years ;
 ‘ and though he is now near seventy, and
 ‘ has several marriageable children, has been
 ‘ foolishly drawn into wedlock by the artful
 ‘ contrivance of this woman. Having ad-
 ‘ mitted him to the greatest familiarities, af-
 ‘ ter the death of his wife, she informed him
 ‘ that she found herself with child ; and beg-
 ‘ ged his advice how to act: “For,” added she,
 “ I have frequently heard my father say,
 “ and confirm it with the most solemn oath,
 “ that if any man should be base enough to
 “ ruin his daughter, he would certainly kill
 “ him the first opportunity ; nor did he
 “ doubt, as he used to say, but he should
 “ receive his Majesty’s clemency, when the
 “ circumstances of the case, and how great
 “ the aggravation was, were properly con-
 “ sidered. Now, as I know him to be a
 “ very resolute man, and am certain that he
 “ never forfeited his word, when he swore
 “ to any thing ; I am afraid, when he knows
 “ you have ruined me, (and know he cer-
 “ tainly must, for I shall not be able to
 “ hide it much longer) that he will by some
 “ means

“ means or other put an end to your life.
 “ So that I shall be deprived at once of
 “ all I hold dear in the world: you (who
 “ though you have ruined me, I cannot
 “ help loving) will be murdered, and my fa-
 “ ther hanged for doing it. Every virtuous
 “ person will shun me! I shall be poor,
 “ despised, and abandoned! And, what
 “ grieves me more than all the rest, the
 “ innocent little infant, the child of your
 “ own body, (if I should live to bring it
 “ into the world) will undoubtedly come
 “ to want, and one day curse it’s wicked
 “ and imprudent parents!”

‘ Here she shed abundance of tears, and
 ‘ hung about his neck with every mark of
 ‘ fondness; while the old gentleman kindly
 ‘ sympathized with her; and, in the ful-
 ‘ ness of his heart, promised to marry her
 ‘ the next day, in order to prevent the
 ‘ effects of what her father had so resolutely
 ‘ threatened, and make her all the amends
 ‘ in his power. She then drew a note from
 ‘ her pocket, which she had previously co-
 ‘ pied from one wrote by an attorney, re-
 ‘ questing him to sign it, if he meant to
 ‘ do her justice. Startled at this, he at first
 ‘ seemed to decline: but the thoughts of
 ‘ her father’s revenge, together with her
 D ‘ apparent

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‘ apparent love, and concern for his preservation, at length determined him; and, in an evil hour, he signed the fatal paper. After this, he knew it was needless to refuse what he had promised; and, in a few days, they were married.

‘ As the whole of this contrivance was evidently planned to ensnare the old man, (the affair of her pregnancy being without the least foundation) she found herself under the necessity of procuring a younger person, in order to make good that part of her story. For this purpose, she gave too much encouragement to a gentleman that visited her husband, who basely reduced her to the necessity of sending for me, on another account: when she took the opportunity of attributing her illness to a miscarriage; which perfectly satisfied her deluded husband, and he has never once doubted her virtue. Having entirely eradicated the disorder, I advised her to a course of these waters, which are admirably adapted to restore health and vigour after any kind of illness: and this, I suppose, is the reason of her being here this morning.’

My friend having concluded, I could not help admiring the artfulness of the woman;

man; though I by no means approve the latter part of her conduct, and think her justly punished for so much wickedness and ingratitude. The old man was also rightly served, by being drawn into matrimony; for when he had been indiscreet enough to debauch so fine a woman, that was the only recompence he could make her. The only persons to be pitied are the children; who, though they could not prevent their father's crime, will severely suffer for it; as the extravagance of their mother-in-law every day lessens their fortune.

Hardly had I made these remarks, when a strange figure passed by, which seemed to attract general notice. Though he appeared to be a young person, he was dressed in the habit of an old man in the middle of the last century; and his pale meagre face was partly lost in a large bag-wig, that hung a great way down his back, and was of an enormous size. His legs, which seemed hardly able to support his very thin carcase, were covered with a pair of coarse hose, and moved with a slow, solemn, and processional pace. Perceiving my friend look at him with a scornful countenance, I asked if he knew any thing of him. 'I disclaim any knowledge of so despicable a being.'

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answered he, ‘ though I have frequently
 ‘ seen him. He is strongly suspected of being
 ‘ one of those who are guilty of a crime
 ‘ too horrid to mention, without polluting
 ‘ the page in which it is recited ; and is im-
 ‘ agined to personate a female, because he
 ‘ constantly wears those gloves with which
 ‘ you now see him, even at meals, in order
 ‘ to make his hands more delicate. He
 ‘ used to dine at an eating-house near Chan-
 ‘ cery Lane ; from whence the continual
 ‘ sneers of the company at length drove
 ‘ him away. This is all I know, or desire
 ‘ to know, of so contemptible a character,
 ‘ and was communicated to me by a
 ‘ young gentleman who frequents that
 ‘ house.’

Being sufficiently informed of this de-
 testable wretch, I directed my eyes in search
 of other characters, more worthy of notice ;
 and presently perceived a young man very
 genteely dressed, who appeared to be in a
 deep consumption. This, my friend in-
 formed me, was the son of a gentleman at
 Hampstead, possessed of an independent
 fortune. ‘ He has been in a declining state
 ‘ some time,’ said my conductor, ‘ proceed-
 ‘ ing from a disappointment in love. About
 ‘ two years ago, having received a compe-
 ‘ tent

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tent knowledge of the learned languages,
 at Eton-School, he went to reside with
 his father during the summer season, pre-
 vious to finishing his studies at one of the
 universities. While he was at home, he
 conceived the most passionate esteem for
 an amiable young lady, (the daughter of
 a poor clergyman on the borders of Wales)
 who officiated as governess to one of
 his sisters, and entertained an equal regard
 for him. Conscious, however, that she
 could not expect to be honourably united
 to one so much her superior, she prudently
 informed his mother of the declaration he
 had made; and begged to be advised, in
 a matter which so nearly concerned her.
 Accordingly, she was secretly sent down
 to her father; with a very handsome pre-
 sent, and the promise of future friendship
 and assistance, as a reward for her inge-
 nuous conduct. As soon as the young
 gentleman knew of her departure, he
 employed every possible means to find out
 the place of her retreat; but the affair
 had been conducted with so much privacy,
 that he could not gain the least intelligence.
 He then fell into a decline; and was, by
 the time he should have left home to
 pursue his studies, evidently on the bor-

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' ders of the grave. Alarmed at the thoughts
 ' of losing their only son, his parents employ-
 ' ed the most skilful of the faculty, to en-
 ' deavour at restoring his health. But every
 ' effort was frustrated: his mind, not his
 ' body, being diseased, in vain did they try
 ' the power of medicine. They then in-
 ' formed his mother, that unless she could
 ' persuade him to confess the cause of his
 ' illness, and at all events endeavour to
 ' remove the obstacle to his happiness, it
 ' would be impossible he should long sur-
 ' vive. Then, and not before, she found
 ' it necessary to inform his father of his
 ' violent regard for his sister's late gover-
 ' ness; and that it was on that account only
 ' she had been sent home. So eager were
 ' they both for his recovery, that it was
 ' immediately agreed to send for the young
 ' lady; with the promise of receiving her
 ' as their daughter, if it was possible for
 ' her to comply, consistent with her own
 ' happiness. In the mean time, the old
 ' lady having obliged her son to confess
 ' what she had long before been acquainted
 ' with, told him that his father had con-
 ' sented to his union with Miss Merit; and
 ' that she was hourly expected. It is easier
 ' to conceive, than describe, the joy which
 ' this

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‘ this intelligence gave him : from that day,
‘ however, he began to amend ; and, with
‘ the assistance of these waters, which he
‘ has for some time constantly attended,
‘ will doubtless be sufficiently recovered in
‘ a short time, to restore his parents happiness,
‘ as well as complete his own.’

By the time my friend had finished this narrative, our appetites began to inform us that breakfast would be very acceptable; and as we could not stop here for that purpose, consistent with our plan, we were obliged to leave this place, without noticing many remarkable characters. I must not forget, however, that just as we quitted the gardens, we were presented with the address of two ladies of easy virtue, requesting our attendance by four in the afternoon ; but as we did not think proper to comply with their *kind* invitation, we immediately returned the card, to prevent their being disappointed, and proceeded on our way to the intended coffee-house.

C H A P.

CHAP. III.

Coffee-House described — Characters there met with. — Thoughts on the present State of Politics.

THE place we judged most convenient for our morning repast, was one of the principal coffee-houses near the Royal Exchange; and, in our way thither, we could not but remark the great number of *friseurs*, who were every where striding along the streets with the utmost expedition. When we arrived, we found the room tolerably full of various kinds of people. The sober citizen, the stock-jobber, and the politician, were promiscuously seated together; sipping their coffee, reading the papers, and displaying their several talents, (or want of talents) in curious arguments on their favourite topics. Some were enquiring the price of stocks, others the state of trade; while others, more ridiculous than either, were planning schemes for paying the national debt *without any taxes at all*, and contriving methods to humble the Americans, and oblige them to submit to the decrees of a parliament which, so far from representing
them,

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them, does not in reality represent *ourselves*. These were opposed by those of contrary principles; and the noise of their arguments, together with the little reason contained in them, gave neither satisfaction nor information to any of the hearers.

In the midst of this confusion, I observed a young man, very indifferently clad, whose high cheek-bones prognosticated him to be a Caledonian, sitting in a box by himself, and writing with the greatest seeming composure on several small pieces of paper which lay before him, signed, as I could plainly perceive, with the letters T. S. When he had finished about half a score, he placed them carefully in an old letter-case; and swallowing down the dregs of his liquor, hurried away, without appearing to take the least notice of any person present. When he was gone, my friend acquainted me, that he knew him well; and that he was a native of Scotland, who, having received a classical education, was come to England in hopes of making a fortune, and establishing his fame, by the literary merit he imagined himself to be possessed of. ‘The London bookfellers,’ however,’ continued my friend, ‘not hav-
ing

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' ing discernment enough to perceive the
 ' capacity of his extensive genius, seldom
 ' employed him in any thing but elaborate
 ' translations, or sentimental novels; where
 ' he found himself obliged to write much
 ' more for money than an ordinary hackney-
 ' writer, without the least allowance for
 ' abilities. Tired of such servile employ;
 ' he determined to quit the service of the
 ' bookfellers, and woo the tragick muse.
 ' For this purpose, he compleated a tra-
 ' gedy; and doubted not but it would gain
 ' him the approbation, as well as encourage-
 ' ment, of the publick: but, alas! the
 ' managers were too dull to observe the
 ' beauties of this excellent performance;
 ' and, after making him dance attendance
 ' above a dozen times, returned the piece,
 ' with the following laconic answer—"We
 ' *have enough of THIS sort.*" Disappointed
 ' in an endeavour which he had flattered
 ' himself could not fail of success, he hard-
 ' ly knew what scheme to devise, in order
 ' to gain a necessary subsistence; at length
 ' he determined to advertise for a place;
 ' and, in consequence of such mode of ap-
 ' plication, has respectively filled the several
 ' stations of shopman, boarding-school
 ' usher, clerk, and out-rider: most of
 ' which

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‘ which employs were lost merely through
‘ inattention to business, owing to the great
‘ desire he has to be considered as an author,
‘ which engrosses the whole of his thoughts.
‘ He is now commenced news-collector for
‘ the papers, and occasionally writes essays
‘ for and against administration, under different
‘ signatures. The scraps you have
‘ just seen him manufacture, are news-paper
‘ paragraphs, which probably contain murders
‘ that were never committed, battles
‘ that were never fought, rapes that were
‘ never attempted, or robberies that have
‘ never happened; notwithstanding which,
‘ every one that appears in the papers of
‘ to-morrow, will intitle him to sixpence;
‘ and they are signed with the initials of
‘ the name he justly assumes, (viz. Tom
‘ Scribble) that it may be known by whom
‘ each was sent; as there are many others
‘ who follow the same employ.’

The account my friend gave of this unfortunate young man, naturally suggested that well-known assertion of Mr. Pope —

“ A little learning is a dangerous thing ;”

at the same time that it strongly confirmed an opinion I ever had, that education, without genius, is of little consequence in the literary

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literary world, and that (tho' they appear to be contradictory terms) it is even possible to be a *learned blockhead*.

After these observations, my friend pointed out a shabby old fellow with a dark complexion, strongly expressive of the fraternity to which he belonged, informing me that he was a son of Israel, who had amassed a considerable fortune, by the calamities of others. 'He lives,' continued my friend, 'near St. Mary Axe, and daily advertises to lend money on annuities, places, commissions, and other valuable securities; which he generally contrives to get entirely into his own hands for a trifle, and then disposes of them at a very advanced price. Besides which, he redeems goods out of pawn; procures bail for sinking tradesmen; and buys off their whole stock, previous to the suing out a commission of bankruptcy by their creditors. In this manner, he drags on his loathsome life; noxious to the public in general, detested by every honest man, and dreaded by all those whose necessities or extravagance oblige them to have any concerns with him. And though he lives in the constant commission of crimes of the most alarming consequences, he fears
' not

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‘ not to be punished ; as the legislature
‘ cannot easily reach his vices, was it even
‘ disposed to make the attempt.’

The next that engrossed our attention was a grave citizen, who sat listening to the various debates without uttering a single word, and now and then gave a contemptuous smile at their ridiculous arguments ; forgetting, at the same time, that himself was an object of ridicule, from the formal singularity of his appearance.

During these remarks, an elderly gentleman walked into the room, and immediately accosted my friend in the most familiar manner, placing himself in the same box with us. After a few compliments, I ventured to ask his opinion of the present state of politicks ; and what he thought would be the consequence of our present dispute with the Americans : to which he replied, that it was a topick, so differently handled, that it was almost impossible to get at the right end of the story ; but from the little consideration he had bestowed on the subject, he thought the Americans were indeed blamable, though much less so than our parliament ; who, according to his idea of the constitution, could have no right to impose laws on a people they do not represent,

E

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sent, when those people are represented by others, who do not think such laws either just, reasonable or necessary. With respect to the consequences, he said, there seemed to him but little doubt of their perseverance in the resolutions they have already formed, to hold no manner of commerce with these kingdoms; the bad effects of which were already felt among such branches of our manufactures as have been accustomed to trade to those parts. He then observed upon the Quebec-Bill; which, he said, appeared to him of a much more alarming nature than the former; that being, at most, but a temporal concern, this a spiritual one. Nor could he conceive, as he said, how it was possible for both Houses of Parliament to consent that Popery should be the established religion of so great a part of his Majesty's dominions; when they know, that it cannot be established in any part, according to the express words of the coronation-oath, without the most flagrant breach of our invaluable rights and privileges. He concluded, with wishing that both these acts might be repealed; since, if they are not liable to be attended with such bad consequences as is too generally imagined, it would at least restore

restore the publick tranquillity, and revive the languid state of our American trade.

I could not help admiring the extreme diffidence that accompanied the old gentleman's remarks; which contained, notwithstanding, much more solid sense and reason than all the numerous arguments I had before heard on the subject.

As soon as he had drank his dish of chocolate, and skimmed over the papers, he took his leave with the same appearance of friendship he had used at his entrance. My friend then began to inform me who he was — ‘ That gentleman,’ said he, ‘ is one of
 ‘ the principal merchants in this metropolis.
 ‘ I have been acquainted with him many
 ‘ years; and though he is supposed to be
 ‘ worth upwards of a *plum*, has not half
 ‘ the pride and consequence of the meanest
 ‘ of his clerks. Though he possesses, as
 ‘ it is easy to perceive, a very good share
 ‘ of understanding, he does not think him-
 ‘ self properly qualified to fill the high of-
 ‘ fices of this city; and has therefore care-
 ‘ fully avoided them, notwithstanding the
 ‘ repeated solicitations of his friends. Un-
 ‘ ambitious of worldly splendour, he has
 ‘ trained his son to the same honourable
 ‘ employ with himself; and only waits till
 E 2 ‘ he

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‘ he has sufficiently acquainted him with
‘ the commercial business, before he entirely
‘ quits trade, and retires to a fine estate
‘ he has lately purchased in one of the most
‘ agreeable parts of the kingdom.’

By the time my friend had finished this relation, we found our appetites sufficiently satisfied; and not perceiving any other characters worthy of notice, we thought proper to quit this place: which we immediately did, on paying for our breakfasts, and receiving an agreeable smile from the captivating eyes of a very beautiful barmaid.

CHAP. IV.

Charity Sermons — Custom of Gilling at Taverns — Various Characters.

WHEN we quitted the coffee-house, my friend advised that we should go to some place of publick worship; which, he observed, would not only improve our own minds, but furnish a good example

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example for the reader, by shewing him the possibility of attending the service of his MAKER, without interrupting the innocent amusements of the day: and, as I recollected to have seen a paragraph in the Saturday's paper, mentioning that there would be a charity sermon at St. Mary le Strand's, on the following morning; by the Bishop of ***, my curiosity prompted me to go thither, that I might hear that very uncommon thing, a bishop preach. Accordingly, we made the best of our way there; and arrived just time enough to perceive several well-dressed people coming out of the church. Surprised at such a circumstance, as I was certain the sermon could not possibly be begun, I asked my friend what he thought was the meaning of it; when he informed me, that he imagined there had been either a curious anthem by some celebrated vocal performers, or an extraordinary fine piece of musick by an admired organist; at which times, he said, it was no uncommon thing to see a number of the musical gentry leave the church; not only to avoid the *unharmonious* voice of the minister, but that they might be able to make their exit *genteely*, without the inconvenience of drop-

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ping their mites in the church-warden plates.

After this, we entered the church, and found ourselves quite soon enough to hear a very excellent discourse, on a more excellent subject. Strongly did the reverend prelate plead the cause he had undertaken ; nor could he possibly fail of success, where the heart was not callous to every tender feeling. As soon as he had finished, the children were placed at the doors, and loudly implored the assistance of the numerous congregation ; so that even those whose penurious dispositions would not permit them to part with a farthing from motives of *charity*, were compelled to do it through *shame*.

As we came out of the church, my friend acquainted me that there was a place close by, which it would by no means be improper to visit ; as it was famous for a custom that prevails at most taverns in town, and procures no small consumption of their interior wines. ‘ The custom alluded to,’ continued he, ‘ is the furnishing dumplins, cold meat, &c. for their morning guests, who are called gillers ; and this practice occasions many to visit them, particularly on a Sunday, who never
‘ make

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‘ make their appearance at any other
‘ time; but as they know this sort of
‘ people tolerable well, the waiters gene-
‘ rally take care they shall not have an
‘ over good bargain, by furnishing them
‘ with the worst liquors, and not the best
‘ provisions. This house, however, is an
‘ exception from the general rule; and
‘ though you are an entire stranger, you
‘ never meet with bad wines, or disagree-
‘ able victuals.’

By this time we found ourselves in the place he had mentioned, and having ordered a pint of Lisbon, began to take a survey of the company. Scarce had we seated ourselves, when we were accosted by a smart young fellow, with -- ‘ Well, gentlemen, what are your thoughts of a war? Do you think our government will interfere in the quarrel between the Portuguese and Spaniards, after the many proofs they have had of the infidelity of that dastardly set of people?’ ‘ I know not Sir,’ replied my friend, ‘ how to answer your interrogations; as the report of a rupture between those powers, has not yet been otherwise authenticated, than by news-paper authorities, which I do not hold to be sufficient proof of the fact:
‘ but,

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‘ but, I should imagine, if they really are
 ‘ at variance ; our people know better than
 ‘ to espouse the cause of the Portuguese,
 ‘ who by no means deserve it at their hands ;
 ‘ especially when it is considered, that the
 ‘ whole of their abilities is absolutely ne-
 ‘ cessary, in the present situation of affairs,
 ‘ to bring about a reconciliation with the
 ‘ disaffected colonists, and establish unani-
 ‘ mity at home.’ Charmed with the affa-
 bility of my companion, the young gentle-
 man seemed desirous of being better ac-
 quainted ; and as he had in every respect
 the appearance of a well-bred person, we
 were not less pleased with his company.
 After some conversation, by which we
 found that he was a student at Oxford,
 and heir to a very large fortune, he began,
 at our request, to entertain us with an ac-
 count of some characters present. ‘ That
 ‘ young fellow,’ said he, ‘ accompanied
 ‘ by the lank-haired stripling, is the
 ‘ son of a wealthy tradesman in White-
 ‘ chapel ; who is as well known in the
 ‘ environs of Covent-Garden, and as fa-
 ‘ mous for his feats of gallantry, as any
 ‘ one in town. He boasts that he has kill-
 ‘ ed his man, seduced his girl, cornuted
 ‘ his friend, and drank several to death ;
 ‘ with

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‘ with these qualifications, and a consum-
‘ mate stock of assurance, he thinks him-
‘ self intitled to rank with persons in the
‘ most exalted stations ; and indeed, to their
‘ shame be it spoken, I have frequently
‘ seen him in company with several of our
‘ nobility, whose vices he successfully imi-
‘ tates. The first knowledge I had of him
‘ was at my father’s ; where he came upon
‘ a visit with Lord H*** ; and he had the
‘ impudence to make another, without
‘ any invitation, with a view of obtaining
‘ the affections of my sister ; but my father
‘ having found what kind of a gentleman
‘ he was, forbid him the house, unless he
‘ chose to undergo the discipline of being
‘ dragged through a horse-pond ; and this
‘ threat had the desired effect, for he never
‘ after made his appearance there. The
‘ youth you see with him, is a younger
‘ brother, who he is initiating in those vices
‘ which render himself so despised.’

‘ Observe,’ continued the young gentle-
man, ‘ that pragmatistical coxcomb, who is
‘ talking to the bar-maid ; see what pains
‘ he takes in endeavouring to persuade her
‘ that she has inspired him with a passion
‘ which he is not capable of feeling. The
‘ whole of his affection is indeed centered
‘ in

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‘ in his own sweet person ; and he contem-
 ‘ plates the dear image a hundred times a
 ‘ day, in a small portable mirrour, which
 ‘ he wears in his pocket for that purpose.
 ‘ Pity it is, that the glass cannot give him
 ‘ an internal view, and shew him his folly
 ‘ and vanity in their proper light. Such an
 ‘ one would indeed be an useful companion,
 ‘ as it might frequently preserve him from
 ‘ the ridicule of his acquaintance.’

‘ The tall meagre figure, that eats so
 ‘ very ravenously one would imagine he
 ‘ had not had a regular meal for a month,
 ‘ is a French teacher to several boarding-
 ‘ schools round London ; but his pay
 ‘ is so very small, and his necessary expences
 ‘ so great, that he can hardly make shift
 ‘ to get a living, and therefore takes care
 ‘ to eat hearty whenever cheap provision
 ‘ comes in his way. The person that sits
 ‘ with him is a dancing-master, and quali-
 ‘ fies grown persons to dance cotillions, &c.
 ‘ of an evening, after he has attended his
 ‘ boarding-school customers in the day-
 ‘ time, in company with the Frenchman.’

This intelligence taking up near an hour,
 we found ourselves obliged, somewhat ab-
 ruptly, to take leave of the young gentle-
 man, after returning him thanks for his
 very agreeable company.

CHAP.

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C H A P. V.

*Walk to Highgate — Sunday Ordinary —
Characters with Remarks.*

THE day being remarkably fine, we agreed to take a walk as far as Highgate, to dinner; where my friend told me we should meet with a good ordinary, and plenty of genteel company. In our way thither, we could not help noticing the vast quantities of field mendicants, who would not indeed let us pass them without telling their dismal stories, and imploring our kind assistance to preserve them from the sharp attacks of hunger; though, my friend observed, that too many of them had a much greater inclination to purchase a certain kind of liquor, commonly called by the name of *gin*, which frequently supplies the place both of food and raiment. ‘There are,’ said my friend, ‘several public-houses in St. Giles’s, supported almost entirely by this kind of people, where you may every evening behold the lame restored to the use of their limbs, the sick to their health, and the blind to their sight. I would not, however, be understood

‘ stood

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‘ stood to mean that this is the case with
‘ all the beggars we see, many of them are
‘ no doubt in real distress; and though it
‘ is difficult to distinguish an object of cha-
‘ rity from an impostor, we should not be
‘ deterred from acts of compassion, as the
‘ intention, not the effect, is principally to
‘ be regarded.’

Being arrived at the top of Highgate Hill, we stopped a few minutes to admire the beautiful prospect that agreeable situation commands over the cities of London and Westminster, and the Kent and Surry hills beyond them; and then proceeded, as it was rather late, to the intended ordinary; where, when we arrived, dinner being on the table, we immediately sat down, and made a very hearty meal.

When we had tolerably well appeased our appetites, we began to take notice of the company, consisting of near twenty persons; among which were the landlord and landlady, who we observed to bestow several four looks on a thin well-dressed man with a fallow complexion, whom they seemed to think (and not without reason) eat a great deal more than he intended to pay for. This person, my friend acquainted me, was no other than the famous Signior Dile-

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Dilettanti, so celebrated for his musical abilities, and who ravishes the ears of the brilliant audiences at the Opera-house. ‘He
‘ is a native of Italy,’ continued my friend,
‘ and was imported here for the amusement
‘ of the nobility, at a very high price.
‘ And though he is supposed to be materially deficient as a man, is frequently
‘ seen in company with ladies of rank and
‘ fortune; but whether it be on account of
‘ his musical talents, or that he has some
‘ other method of rendering himself agreeable to them, I will not take upon me to
‘ determine.’

My friend now desired me to take notice of a young man very shabbily dressed, informing me, that he was a hackney-writer, and capable of getting two or three guineas a week, at stated times of the year; but that being at present out of employ, and not having prudence enough to lay by any thing when he had it in his power, was obliged to depend upon the bounty of a distant relation, who never advanced a single shilling, without severe but just reproofs for his thoughtless conduct. ‘The
‘ smart youth you see him in discourse with,’ said my friend, ‘ is office-clerk to a person
‘ of repute in Gray’s Inn, and is in a fair
F way

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' way of being reduced to the same situa-
 ' tion with his companion, as he frequently
 ' partakes in his follies and extravagance.
 ' By their being both booted, I suppose
 ' they have raised money enough between
 ' them to hire a couple of horses for half
 ' the day ; and are probably going to take
 ' an afternoon's ride of twenty or thirty
 ' miles. Frequent repetitions of this
 ' amusement will perhaps suggest to them,
 ' that they may use it to *advantage* ; and,
 ' though I wish not to be a prophet in
 ' this respect, there is too much reason to
 ' think, that a dark evening, and vacant
 ' pockets, may some time or other induce
 ' them to be guilty of a crime which sel-
 ' dom suffers its practisers to escape punish-
 ' ment, never ignominy.'

The rest of the company was chiefly
 made up of reputable tradesmen, some of
 them with their families, and other genteel
 persons ; who frequent the place, as my friend
 observed, for the conveniency of being able
 to take a longer walk in that delightful
 neighbourhood, than they could possibly
 do were they to dine in town.

After drinking our bottle, and spending
 an hour or two in very agreeable conversa-
 tion on different subjects, we quitted this
 place,

place, in pursuance of our design; and, as we went along, could not help remarking on the great utility of Sunday ordinaries; where, for the trifling charge of one shilling each, persons might be accommodated with a genteel dinner, consisting of two or three dishes of very excellent provisions.

In our way to Islington, that noted place for the consumption of cakes and ale, we passed by Holloway, remarkable for the weekly sale of cheesecakes; notwithstanding which, as my friend informed me, they by no means equal in goodness those made by the pastry-cooks in town. Near this place, my friend pointed out a path leading up a steep hill, which he said was the road to Hornsey Wood; adjoining to which, he observed there was a tolerable decent tea-house, pretty much frequented by the genteeler sort of people, but as it was too far for us to reach conveniently, he advised that we should decline visiting it. Accordingly, we passed on through Islington, with a design of noticing the several tea-gardens in that neighbourhood; but as they form a very material part of my Ramble, I shall at least honour their introduction with a new Chapter.

C H A P. VI.

Description of White Conduit House, Jubilee, Pantheon, Marybone, and Kensington Gardens.

THE first garden we visited was that of White Conduit House; which is situated on a rising ground, opposite a conduit, from whence it takes it's name. The prospect is very extensive, commanding a most agreeable view of the metropolis, and the surrounding country. The garden is formed into several pleasing walks, prettily disposed: at the end of the principal one, is a painting, which serves to render it much longer in appearance than it really is; and in the middle of the garden is a small fish-pond, encompassed with a great number of very genteel boxes for company, curiously cut into the hedges, and adorned with a variety of Flemish and other paintings. There are likewise two handsome tea-rooms, one over the other; as well as several smaller ones in the dwelling-house; but as we were rather too early for the company, they contained no characters worthy of notice; and therefore, having entered this place by the coach-

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coach-road leading from Islington, we quit-
ted it almost immediately, by the front gate,
which only admits foot passengers.

From hence we proceeded to the Jubilee
Garden, a place, as my friend acquainted
me, formerly known by the name of Dob-
ney's Bowling Green; and then much fre-
quented by the admirers of that manly ex-
ercise. 'But,' continued he, 'at the time
' Mr. Garrick thought proper to amuse the
' public with a Jubilee, at Stratford, in
' honour of the immortal SHAKESPEAR, this
' place received the name of the Jubilee Tea-
' Garden; in compliance with the then pre-
' vailing taste, which could not relish any
' thing, but what favoured of the Jubi-
' lee.'

When we entered the garden, I perceived
that it was in a very ruinous condition; the
walks not being kept in order, nor the
hedges properly cut. There are, however,
several good apartments in the house; and
two handsome tea-rooms on the north
side of the bowling-green, built one above
the other. And though truth will not
permit me to say much in favour of the
garden, justice requires that I should ac-
knowledge the extreme civility of the pre-
sent proprietor, who seems indefatigable in

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his endeavours to please by his very obliging behaviour.

Quitting this place, we crossed the fields near Sadler's Wells, and passed by another, called Islington Spa. This, my friend informed me, was esteemed one of the genteelst tea-gardens about the metropolis; and was still more eminent for a remarkable fine mineral: but at the time of our perambulation, it was not open for the public; the late proprietor's lease being out, (as we were given to understand) and the whole undergoing a thorough repair.

The Pantheon in the Spa Fields next attracted our notice; which is a large round building, with the statue of Fame on the top. The inside consists of two galleries reaching entirely round the whole, for company to sit in, and a proportionate number of seats at the bottom. In the middle is a curious stove, with fire-places all round, constructed in such a manner as to carry off the smoke without any chimney, or the least inconvenience to the company, and at the same time warm the whole building in the severest weather. Beside this, there is a beautiful garden, well disposed into fancy-walks, ornamented with a great variety of shrubs and fruit-trees. On one side of the garden

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garden is a large pond ; at the extremity of which is the statue of Hercules with his club, on a high pedestal ; and at the other end, a small genteel building for company, up a handsome flight of stone steps. One side of the pond, and that end which contains the Herculean statue, are likewise bordered with neat boxes for company, and there are a great number of seats dispersed in different parts of the garden, together with several genteel tea-rooms belonging to the dwelling-house. Notwithstanding the spaciousness of this place, and the prodigious number of people it appeared to be capable of containing, my friend assured me he had frequently been there when there was hardly a place to sit down in. And indeed the rotunda was at this time so crowded, that the noise of the people's feet, together with the shape of the building, rendered it no bad similitude to what it was compared by a countryman present ; who staring with great seeming astonishment at the multitude of people in the spacious galleries, declared it was the largest *bee-hive* he had ever beheld. To which an arch wag, who was pleased with the comparison, instantly replied---‘ Ay, friend, so it is ; and though ‘ it contains little else but *drones*, you will
‘ find,

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‘ find, if you trust them too far, that many
 ‘ of them are not without *stings*.’

Having sufficiently noticed the place, we began to observe the company, consisting of some hundreds of people of both sexes; the greater part of which, notwithstanding their gay appearance, were evidently neither more nor less, than journeymen taylors, hair-dressers, and other such *genteel* people, attended by their proper companions, milliners, mantua-makers, and servant-maids. There was likewise no small number of those who had thrown off even the mask of virtue, and were come to this place to barter their artificial charms for *sterling* beauty, to such unhappy youths as came in their way, with stronger passions than reflection. Some of the company were drinking tea, coffee, negus, and such like female liquors; while others, of a different cast, chose to regale themselves with a stronger beverage, and were swallowing down such plentiful draughts of punch, red-port, &c. as must unavoidably sooner make the place go round them in appearance, than they round it in reality.

Leaving this receptacle of noise and riot, we proceeded to Bagnigge Wells; which was so greatly crowded, that we found it no
 easy

easy matter to pass along the walks; and, though we were disposed to have drank a glass of wine, could perceive no place where we might conveniently sit. As the hurry and bustle of this place would not permit of any reflection, we quitted it as soon as we were able, and made the best of our way to Marybone Garden.

From the pompous advertisements of the entertainments of this place, and the extravagant prices imposed for admission to behold them, we imagined it must unavoidably be a superlatively genteel place of Sunday resort; though it being only just opened as a tea-garden, my friend had not yet visited it. On paying six-pence each, we received two tickets, intitling us to the same value in any kind of liquor, and were admitted into the garden. Never was I more disappointed than with this wretched place; instead of beholding agreeable walks, beautiful alcoves, and delightful retreats; the garden, as it is arrogantly stiled, consists of nothing more than two or three gravel *roads*, and a few shapeless trees. The places *intended* for company, are the meanest possible to conceive; and the tables, if they are worthy that name, being chiefly made of unplanned boards wretchedly put together, are covered
with

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with stained dirty cloths, to prevent the tea-spoons, &c. from falling through the crevices. Those parts which might otherwise somewhat resemble a garden, are clogged with a parcel of rubbish and lumber, for the fire-works of Signior Torre, and other ingenious-imitators of the infernal regions. In short the whole place is in the greatest confusion and disorder possible to imagine; and I only wonder that the publick have so long bore with this daring impeachment of their understanding. The affront, however, appears to be at present pretty well resented; for there was hardly any other company than foreign musical performers, who being retained there the whole week besides, probably think it their duty to attend on a Sunday. Disgusted at so great an imposition, we presented our tickets to one of the waiters, and instantly quitted the place.

Scarce had we passed an hundred yards from the house, when I perceived a gentleman walking before us, whom I immediately recollected to be the person I had seen at Tottenham Court Chapel; and was not a little surpris'd to find him and my friend salute each other in the most cordial manner. As soon as he recognized me, I
asked

asked him, if he could inform me of the reason why Marybone Garden was suffered to be in so ruinous a condition, when the prices of admittance to the entertainments of that place, greatly exceeded those of Ranelagh and Vauxhall, with both which places it was not worthy of being named. 'It is a place,' said the old gentleman, 'I seldom visit; and of course know very little about it; but it is reported that the lease of the ground is nearly expired; and therefore, I suppose, the present occupiers do not think it worth their while to put it into repair, before they know whether it will be continued to them.' After this information, we took leave of the old gentleman; and, as we went along, I told my friend how I had met with him; and acquainted him with the conversation that passed between us in the chapel, which I had forgot to do before. At length, we imperceptibly came to the borders of Hyde Park, and immediately crossed to Kensington Garden.

This place was the principal residence of GEORGE the second, and indeed worthy the habitation of that revered monarch. The garden is the most agreeable I ever beheld; (those of Kew and Richmond, and Stow in Bucking-

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Buckinghamshire, only excepted.) It is, however, like them, very extensive; and contains a vast number of the most beautiful walks the strongest imagination can conceive. So great, too, is the variety of charming scenes in this delightful place, that every person, in every humour, may be accommodated to his wish. Does the *moralist* wish to indulge his meditations in private --- he may plunge into the recesses of a thick grove, and enjoy his own reflections; undisturbed, but by the plaintive notes of the black-bird, or the more melodious voice of the sweet-warbling thrush --- Burns the *beau* to appear in a crowd of gaiety and elegance --- he may visit the enchanting walks behind the Palace and Green-house; where he will find those who equal him in *dress*, if they do not exceed him in *vanity* and *affectation* --- Or seeks the *rejected lover* to forget the frowns of a capricious mistress --- let him join the giddy crowd with the *beau*; and, from the levity of the females he will there behold, learn to despise the artful part of the sex, and cease to love where it is in vain to expect a return --- But, should the more *successful one* wish to breathe the ardour of his constant passion to an uncoquetish fair --- let him frequently quit the crowd, and
in

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in the less frequented walks, melt her fond soul with softest tales of love. — In a word, the thoughtful, the giddy, the melancholy, and the gay, may all find places here to suit their respective dispositions.

A number of beautiful alcoves are dispersed over the garden, generally so contrived, as to command an agreeable prospect through the most delightful vistas; serving at once to repose the limbs and charm the eyes of the weary visitants. For the better regulating the company, servants are placed at the different entrances, to prevent persons meanly clad from going into the garden. But, notwithstanding the great care that is taken to preserve decency and decorum in this place, there is a generally complained of nuisance prevails, the removal of which seems not to be attempted; and that is, the unpardonable folly of scribbling obscene verses on the glass of the green-house, &c. to the great offence of all those who are not lost to all sense of shame. And I cannot but remark, that though this practice is too well known, many apparently virtuous females were poring over the lines; who, I must be charitable enough to suppose, were not capable of reading them; for they could not, if they comprehended their meaning,

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have perused them without blushing. I would, however, advise my more literate countrywomen to inform them of their error; and likewise let them know, (what some of them have probably found by experience) that as well as the laughter such imprudent conduct creates among the other sex, they may frequently meet with hieroglyphicks, sufficiently resembling nature to explain their intended meaning, without the least necessity of the spectators being able to name even the different letters of the alphabet.

After walking about the garden for upwards of an hour, in order to behold the principal beauties of the place, and finding ourselves somewhat fatigued, we chose a seat which happened to be vacant near the Kensington gate, where we could perceive every person that entered by that way. We had not been long seated, when a gentleman placed himself by us, and began to converse with the greatest familiarity. Perceiving, by his appearance and behaviour, that he was a man of rank and fortune, we esteemed ourselves not a little happy in having chose this seat to rest on; particularly, as he entertained us with an account of several of the nobility, as they entered the garden, the true characters of whom he appeared

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to be perfectly acquainted with. Among those he described, were the duke of G--- and L---d D---, whose vices are pretty well known to the publick, without being enumerated here; it is sufficient to say, that they were accompanied by Miss C--- and the infamous Mrs. B---, both well known in the theatrical world. When we had discoursed some time, he very politely took his leave; and as we followed after almost immediately, were not a little surpris'd to find, by the heraldry of the chariot he stepped into, that we had been conversing with no less a person than the much esteemed E--l of T---; who had, in the course of our conversation, artfully contriv'd to gain his own publick character from the mouth of my sensible companion. Happily, it was so justly given by my impartial friend, that it must perfectly satisfy that great man of the rectitude of his conduct, and convince him that his virtues are properly esteemed by the judicious part of mankind.

As we had now left the garden, and found it requisite to give languid nature some refreshment, we began to consider where it would be most convenient, without interrupting our design. Accordingly it was agreed that we should cross a few fields to

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a place called Brompton; where my friend assured me there was a much frequented tea-garden, which would probably furnish us with fresh matter of speculation. But as this chapter has rather extended beyond the usual bounds, I shall give the description of that place in the last part of my Ramble.

C H A P. VII.

*Cromwell's Garden described — The Green-
and St. James's Parks --- Sunday Rout ---
Pagnio Scenes --- Conclusive Reflections.*

THE tea-garden mentioned in the latter part of my last chapter, is situated at the distance of about half a mile from Kensington, being a pleasant rural walk from that place. It is known by the name of Cromwell's Garden; and is supposed to be so called, from having formerly belonged to the Protector. It is much frequented, as my friend informed me, by those who visit Kensington Garden; and not a little used by the numerous ladies of pleasure who reside in that neighbourhood.

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bourhood; which from it's retired situation, he likewise observed, was well adapted for gallantry and intrigue. As soon as we entered the garden, we ordered coffee to be prepared; and perceiving there was sufficient room for us, placed ourselves in an agreeable arbour, where there was only an elderly lady. In a few minutes, however, we found she was not without company; for two beautiful females entered the place, followed by a couple of well-dressed men, and seated themselves by her. It was easy for us to perceive that our company was not now agreeable: we therefore presently dispatched our coffee, and left them to their own conversation; but not before we had sufficiently gathered, from their significant behaviour, the true characters of the parties. That, however, was needless; for we had scarce quitted our seats, when my friend met an old acquaintance, who immediately informed us who they were. 'The old wo-

' man,' said he, 'was formerly in keeping
' with a rich merchant; but being discarded,
' and having (contrary to the general practice)
' been artful enough to save the wages of
' iniquity, afterwards kept a noted bagnio,
' in the environs of St. James's; and though
' she acquired a very considerable fortune,

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' by the encouragement she ever gave to
 ' debauchery, (sufficient, indeed, to procure
 ' her a very genteel retreat at a delightful
 ' mansion just by) cannot now help en-
 ' couraging vice in others, though age will
 ' not permit her to continue it in her own
 ' person. For this purpose, she boards
 ' several unhappy females, whose subsistence
 ' must expire with their charms. The two
 ' you have now seen with her, are of that
 ' number; and, I suppose, their keepers not
 ' chusing to be seen with them on a Sun-
 ' day, (being probably under the disagree-
 ' able necessity of accompanying their wives
 ' on that day, to prevent suspicion) are come
 ' to this place to procure gallants. And,
 ' no doubt, as what they obtain this way is
 ' judged to be more than they have occasion for,
 ' (their infatuated admirers allowing them
 ' every *necessary*) the old woman *kindly* par-
 ' takes in the profits of these adventures.
 ' Notwithstanding her artfulness, however,
 ' and the great care she takes not to be de-
 ' ceived, she was some time ago pretty deep-
 ' ly taken in, by a contrivance of a very
 ' singular nature. A Jew merchant had a most
 ' beautiful mistress who boarded with the
 ' old lady, at the very *moderate* rate of four
 ' hundred pounds *per annum*. It is, how-
 ' ever,

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‘ ever, but justice, to own, that the wages
‘ and support of two female servants and a
‘ footman, were included in this agreement,
‘ together with the occasional use of the old
‘ woman’s carriage. The money was co-
‘ venanted to be paid half-yearly ; but, at
‘ the end of seven months, the Jew informed
‘ her, that he had purchased so largely in
‘ the three *per cent.* annuities when the
‘ prices were low, that he could not then sell
‘ out, without sustaining a very considerable
‘ loss ; but, in order to make some amends
‘ for the delay of payment, was willing to
‘ give her a bond for four hundred and
‘ twenty, payable at the end of the other
‘ five months, bearing interest at five *per*
‘ *cent. per annum.* The opulent circumstances
‘ he appeared to be in, left her no room to
‘ doubt the safety of the money, and she
‘ cheerfully accepted his proposal. About
‘ a week before the bond became due,
‘ as she was one day looking over the list
‘ of bankrupts in the Gazette, (which list
‘ she had frequently assisted to augment)
‘ she perceived that the son of Israel had
‘ deceived her, and was placed among the
‘ unfortunates contained in that melancholy
‘ sheet. Instantly she hurried home to vent
‘ her passion on the unhappy cause of her
‘ loss ;

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loss; but was immediately informed, that
 the young lady, having received intelligence of the disaster that had befallen her
 keeper, had packed up all her clothes,
 jewels, &c. and retreated to the metropolis.
 So greatly was the old woman enraged at
 this affair, that she discarded every servant
 in the house, for permitting her to
 escape; and vowed revenge both on her
 and the Jew. Accordingly, when the
 dividends were made, she refused to come
 in under the commission; thinking it
 would be better to wait patiently till his
 mistress should get a more opulent keeper,
 when she was determined to transfer the
 debt to her; and, if possible, oblige her
 to pay it. In the mean time, the young
 lady attracted the notice of a gentleman
 possessed of a small fortune; and the old
 woman having found out where she lived,
 immediately arrested her for four hundred
 pounds, for twelve months board and
 lodging. The young lady, however, put
 in bail to the action; and, on a trial in
 the court of King's Bench, proving herself
 to be lawfully married to a person
 who was gone on an East-India voyage,
 and the court considering the extravagance
 of the charge, the suit was dismissed
 with

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• with costs. Since this affair, the old woman has been extremely cautious; and, it is reported, will not now take any boarder, without being paid weekly.'

Having received this information, and thanked my friend's acquaintance for the pleasure he had given us in the relation, we took a survey of the garden; which appeared to have nothing remarkable, or different from what has been described in those mentioned before, except a great number of yew-trees curiously cut, several of which surround a circular grass-plot before the house. We therefore left this place; and, as it began to grow late, made the best of our way to the Green Park.

When we got there, though it was near ten o'clock, being a very fine evening, the place was extremely crowded with the genteel company; and my friend pointed out a great many of the nobility, as they passed by us; but as few of them had anything to recommend them, but the undeserved dignities which had been bestowed upon them, without any intrinsic worth, I think it entirely needless to take notice of them. This park, which is pleasantly situated, opens into St. James's; being no otherwise separated than by a row of wooden rails.

St.

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St. James's Park has at present very little to recommend it, except those well-known walks, called The Mall, which are full half a mile in length. This place, my friend observed, is chiefly used by the quality to walk in before dinner; and seldom visited by them in the evening, as it is too much frequented, at that time, by the more publicly-complying females. The park is now, however, undergoing a reform; and therefore, till the alterations are finished, a description of the place would be absolutely ridiculous.

When we came out of the Green Park, we walked down to the Queen's palace; (generally called Buckingham House) which is built at the end of the Mall; and though it is a handsome building, and has a far more respectable outward appearance than the King's palace at St. James's, is not, in my opinion, worthy the residence of so amiable a Queen.

In our way back again, up the Mall, I could not avoid noticing an amazing quantity of splendid carriages, (through a gate which opened on the left-hand side) attended by a prodigious number of powdered lacquies; who failed not to behave with the greatest insolence to such passers by as were
hardy

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hardy enough to complain of their interrupting the free passage. Surprised at seeing so many equipages, I asked my friend if he could guess the cause of their assembly. 'That,' replied he, 'will be attended with no great difficulty. This place is called The Stable Yard, and is famous for the residence of Lady H---, whose character is sufficiently known to the publick. I shall only say, this is one of those Sunday evening routs, which that *pious* lady frequently holds, in order to assemble the most depraved of our nobility of both sexes; where connections are frequently formed, by her *chaste* visitants, which bring no small emolument to a certain part of the metropolis, called Doctors Commons.'

The clock having struck ten, while we were discoursing of these infamous assemblies, my friend assured me that we could not leave the park but by this way, all the other gates being shut up at that hour. We therefore passed through the Stable Yard, which brought us immediately to St. James's palace gates. From thence we proceeded along Pall Mall, towards Covent Garden; which place, my friend observed, it was absolutely necessary for us to visit, in order to the completion of our plan.

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Having arrived there, we entered one of the most noted bagnios in that *virtuous* neighbourhood; and were scarce seated, when we were accosted by one of the *nuns* who frequent the house, with —
 ‘ Pray, gentlemen, will you please to favour me with a glass of wine?’ And, on our complying with her request, instantly drank an obscene toast, placed herself on my knee, and began to behave with greater familiarity than I was disposed to permit. Chiding her indecency, I desired her to desist; when she immediately attacked both me and my companion with the most scandalous epithets possible to be bestowed: Of such a nature, indeed, that we found ourselves constrained to leave the place; lest the company present should imagine her assertions to be true, and bestow that punishment on us which is justly due to those who really deserve such expressions.

We then went to another house of the same cast; and my friend having cautioned me not to assume too much delicacy, we met with very little interruption. The room we sat in was full of well-dressed persons; whose behaviour, however, but ill suited with their habits, as the two sexes seemed to vie with each other who should

excel

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excel in obscene gestures and lewd conversation. Among the many characters present, my friend pointed out the following.

‘ That gay young fellow,’ said he, ‘ whose appearance at least equals that of a man of fortune, is nothing more than a mercer’s shopman in Cheapside; and, notwithstanding the figure he makes, his salary does not exceed thirty pounds a year; which is wholly spent in this abandoned manner, as the imprudence of a foolishly indulgent father supplies him with an adequate sum, in order that his appearance may be sufficiently genteel to attract the notice of some giddy heiress. The youth that sits in the same box, (and who, as well as him, has got a prostitute on his knee) is a strolling actor, and occasional poet; and now wears the identical coat in which I saw him attempt to perform the character of Hamlet, last summer, in a barn in Essex. In the next seat to these,’ continued my friend, ‘ is a more despicable being than either; for though he has been many years married to an amiable woman, he cannot avoid visiting these places and bestowing those endearments on a wanton harlot, which are so justly due to the me-

H

‘ rits

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‘rits of his wife, even were there no moral obligation.’

My friend now observed upon the females; several of whom he was sufficiently acquainted with, to give me an account of their connections. Some of them, I found, followed this wretched life from necessity, others from imprudence, and others from inclination; and, sorry I am to say it, there appeared to be more of this last sort, (if I may be allowed to judge from their abandoned behaviour) than both the former ones put together.

Having sufficiently satisfied my curiosity, I intreated my friend to leave this detestable place; where folly and debauchery appeared to have totally banished decency and common sense; nor did he want much persuasion to quit a place so hateful to every being who has the least spark either of religion or virtue.

As it was near twelve o'clock when we left this house, I thought it was now time to put an end to our perambulation. Accordingly, we proceeded in our way home; and, as we went along, the following reflections occurred to my companion, which he communicated as they arose.

‘ From

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‘ From the various scenes,’ said he, ‘ at
‘ which we have been this day present, we
‘ are naturally led to consider the motives
‘ by which the several parties were actuated
‘ to commit those indiscretions which have
‘ procured them our contempt; and, on a
‘ dispassionate enquiry, we shall find, that

“ In reasoning PRIDE, my friend, their error lies;
“ All quit their sphere, and rush into the skies.”

‘ And, indeed, from this root proceed most
‘ of the vices and follies which disgrace the
‘ human species. To what else can be at-
‘ tributed the shameful emulation so con-
‘ spicuous in the lower class of our mecha-
‘ nicks; who seem to vie with the nobility
‘ in gaiety of dress, and dissipation of man-
‘ ners? Hence, too, proceeds the present
‘ alarming state of our religion: the supe-
‘ rior clergy are above teaching the common
‘ people; and they disdain to receive in-
‘ struction from those who, in a worldly
‘ view, are too frequently greatly inferior
‘ to themselves. If we turn our eyes to
‘ the scenes which last presented themselves
‘ in those houses of infamy we have just
‘ now quitted, we shall instantly perceive
‘ that this fatal vice has been the grand
‘ cause of those unhappy creatures prosti-
‘ tuting their youth and beauty, to satisfy

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' the brutal passions of sensualists and de-
 ' bauchees. Brought up in idleness by
 ' their fatally indulgent parents, they learn
 ' at an early age to despise household em-
 ' ploy; looking with contempt on those
 ' whose necessity obliges them to submit to
 ' domestick drudgery. As they increase in
 ' years, the notice some superficial attraction
 ' obtains them, swells the fond parents hearts
 ' with rapture; who, in their excess of
 ' joy at the opening beauties of their off-
 ' spring, spare no expence to procure them
 ' every polite qualification necessary for those
 ' who are to fill such high stations as their
 ' partiality fondly imagines must be the fate
 ' of charms so very powerful. But, alas!
 ' what is the consequence? Being intro-
 ' duced into every polite assembly, (with
 ' the *honourable* view of ensnaring youthful
 ' opulence) they are seen by those that are
 ' full as artful, and more experienced than
 ' themselves, who seldom --- very seldom in-
 ' deed --- fail in their attempts upon such
 ' virtue, and so poorly guarded. Deprived
 ' of that which might have otherwise fur-
 ' nished them with some consolation in the
 ' midst of every misfortune that could then
 ' have befallen them, they find themselves
 ' obliged to submit to the *generosity* of their
 ' seducer;

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‘ seducer; who probably takes them into
‘ keeping, under the character of *mistress*;
‘ but with how little propriety they are so
‘ called I leave to be determined by those whose
‘ sad experience enables them to be the best
‘ judges of the matter. Subject to the ca-
‘ pricious disposition of an unprincipled
‘ villain, (for the person who is guilty of
‘ seduction, however exalted his station,
‘ certainly deserves this appellation, at least)
‘ they are continually in the worst state of
‘ dependency; the smallest decay of their
‘ beauty, the jealousy or wavering of their
‘ keeper, their real inconstancy, and a thou-
‘ sand other incidents, occasion their imme-
‘ diate dismissal, and plunge them still lower
‘ in the gulph of infamy; till at length
‘ they are compelled by necessity to solicit
‘ their subsistence, at the expence of every
‘ thing that should distinguish them from
‘ the beasts that perish.” All these cala-
‘ mities, O pride! originate from thee!

Here my friend finished his remarks; the
justness of which cannot be disputed, I
think, by any rational being. May they
impress the mind of the reader with a pro-
per contempt for the parent vice! -- May
they shew the folly of educating children
(particularly females) in a manner superior
to

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to the station they may reasonably be supposed to fill! --- And lastly may they steel him against such degenerate wretches as basely endeavour to seduce the softer sex from the paths of virtue, and thereby render them involuntary corrupters of mankind. Be these my wishes but fulfilled; and I care not for the fate of the rest of this performance — whether it be esteemed worthy a corner in the libraries of the curious, or fit only to line the caravans of the *vestals* in Tavistock Street.

F I N I S.

